



September 2024
Elkstonians'
Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

It's hard to believe that we are coming into Autumn already, but the berries are looking very fulsome on the rowan trees up the clough & roadsides, there are blackberries galore & at the time of writing the weather is feeling very 'back-endish', so Harvest season is definitely here!

Many thanks to Andrew Wentworth for this lovely photo of the August sunset taken from his back door. Keep the pictures coming as we love to feature interesting photos of local places & local people which Elkstonians have taken.



Diary Dates

St John's Church

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 15th September at 7.00pm

While there are so many problems & terrible things going on in the world, which we can't escape every time we switch on our televisions, this is a time to reflect on, & give thanks for, all the good & positive things that we enjoy in our lives, of which there are many, so please come along to the service & join together with friends & neighbours, doing just that.

The service will be followed by the usual fabulous Pie & Pea (& Pudding!) Supper, price £8, plus a raffle for church funds.

On Saturday 14th September we will be meeting in church at 2.00pm to arrange the display of Harvest offerings & decorate the church

All offerings of colourful fruit & vegetables for the frontal display, and also cakes, produce & any other saleable food items for the table display, will be very gratefully received. These can be either left in the front porch at Townhead Farm prior to Saturday or brought to church on the Saturday for 2.00pm, if you would like to help with arranging the display. It's always good to have more helpers & fresh ideas, so please come along and help if you can.



Harvest Produce Sale

Monday 16th September at 8.00pm

This is one of our major fundraisers that help to keep our lovely little church in good order & open for all to enjoy, so please come along and take part.

During the week prior to the Harvest Festival, Hazel Bailey will be coming round the village to sell raffle tickets.

If you are able to donate any prizes for the Raffle, please leave these in the front porch at Townhead Farm during the week before the Festival. With thanks in advance for everybody's generosity!

Cleaning & Flowers for September

Margaret Grant

Tea and Talk s

with



Dr Ashley S J Dawson
MBChB | BSc Hons | MRCGP

**Managing Respiratory Symptoms
Self-Care & Support**

**Thursday 19th September
2024 3:30-5pm**

**Hartington Village Hall
SK17 0AW**

All Welcome

ELKSTONIANS DIARY DATE

This year's Elkstonians AGM will be held at Bank House on Thursday 24th October at 8.00pm. Please put it in your diary—it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible to discuss this last year & our possible plans for 2025



**29th September 2024
11.00am– 5.00pm
Buxton Pavilion Gardens**

Japan Fest Buxton

This vibrant celebration promises an unforgettable day filled with Japanese tradition & pop culture

<https://paviliongardens.co.uk/events/japan-fest/>

Fibre Optic Broadband installation update, as understood by Margaret

On Tuesday evening 27th August, I attended a meeting in Warslow Village Hall, hosted by Connect Fibre ("CF"). The gist of the meeting was the Government has set a target date for every property in the country to access a fibre-optic internet connection by 2033 (hopefully prior to BT ending the copper network & removing our landline telephones) & has set aside funds to subsidise the cost of this. In November 2023 CF was awarded the contract for installing the fibre-optic infra structure in our area & I believe that Warslow is currently undergoing the installation work which should be up & running by next year.

Although we are part of the Warslow & Elkstone Parish Council area, the installations are not being done according to Parish Boundaries, but according to what telephone exchange you are currently connected to. Warslow is on the Buxton Exchange, Lower Elkstone is Onecote & Upper Elkstone is Leek, so each area will receive the installation at different times. The intention of CF is that talks will start with each area by November this year with a view to starting the work within a few months. The cable will run underground wherever possible, otherwise via poles. The general picture over the whole country is that if we wait another 9 years till the 2033 end date, we will get the roll-out eventually, but larger communities will get the roll-out first & the 'less significant' ones like us will be left till last. However, if we take advantage of the CF project, we should be next on the list in our area for getting a connection. Isolated properties which are off the beaten track will be subsidised or be part of a voucher system to help towards the costs. CF will be building the infra structure & installing the fibre-optic cable, but the infra structure system can then be used either to access their internet service package, or stay with your current provider who should be able to pay to access the infra structure.

I struggled to find any details on CF's website www.connectfibre.co.uk because I was reluctant to fill in my details to 'register an interest' (being afraid of committing myself to something I might not want!) but had more luck visiting the Government's own website www.gov.uk & searching for BDUK North East Staffordshire which explains things better than I can. It also provides a map of the coverage, but I could not make it big enough to be legible, so if anyone else can see the map & reproduce it for me so that we can see which properties are covered by which scheme, I would be grateful! A member of Connect Fibre's personnel at the meeting told me that Elkstones is Lot 19 in the North East Staffs Award, and that Lower Elkstone is AC3 and Upper Elkstone is AC6.

The Elkstonians: Chair *Jane Prince* Vice Chair *Don Sutherland* Secretary *Katy Parkinson* Treasurer *Margaret Grant*
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